













**DEAR**

The Government of New Zealand seems to with vigour according to the means it possesses; but it is plain these are not sufficient should the rebellion spread. Even the five allies can hardly be trusted, unless they supported by a clearly superior force. Some are shrewd enough to discern that in

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t of war which the New Zealanders desire  
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settlers' houses and the massacre of their  
and children, and then a return home  
h such spoils as may be easily conveyed.  
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our and animate their warlike tempera-  
ment. So long as this is possible the loss of  
few warriors here, and there, amongst the

larger vengeance, would exactly meet the attitudes of their mental and moral condition. They would regard any vigorous and decisive method as being a cruel sacrifice of warlike measures, which properly cared for might last for many years to come. This is a mistake, which not only obstructs and distracts the English colony; it is a disgrace to the British Empire, and whatever may be required

that to be provided by Great Britain to suppress and cure the evils which her own subjects in former times, it is alleged, have done so much to create. It ought not to be forgotten that the misgovernment of New Zealand is not the work of the colonists, but of her own representatives, so far as it is attributable at all. We are, however, not inclined to magnify these mistakes or failures,

which probably no Government could have  
avoided. Sir GEORGE BOWEN appears  
in our recent papers to be employing all the  
means at his disposal, and much may be  
expected from his industry and intelligence ;  
the strongholds of the natives must be  
conquered, or every year will witness the  
recurrence of similar calamities.

MOVEMENT, to which we cannot but wish success, has commenced almost simultaneously in several of these colonies in favour of intercolonial free trade. Even the insular colonies of New Zealand and Tasmania are entering on the subject. South Australia, of course, retains all its old fervour; the Chamber of Commerce at Melbourne has passed favourable resolutions on the subject, and the Government, though it has made no public

ment, though it has made no public announcement, is reported to be inclined towards the proposal, and in correspondence has reference to it. For New South Wales have a new Ministry, avowedly free traders in its sympathies; and Queensland, with its growing sugar plantations, would be probably too happy to find a local market for its tropical productions.

interest and opinion presents a favourable opportunity for a practical movement. There are, however, a good many difficulties to be conquered, and, therefore, all the advantages of the situation should be availed of before they disappear. Mr. ROBERTSON, our new Premier, has lately before his constituents, made one of the intercolonial conference on the vital question; but it is only by means of

conferences that we can gradually prepare the way for federal action. The failure of the present conference is no argument against any other conference. There may be probably a number of failures before we achieve the result aimed at. The reason of the failure, too, in the particular instance, is the absence of any accredited representative of the Home Government which

one or the parties to the proposed agreement. But this would not be the case in a discussion on intercolonial free trade, for all parties to the agreement would be present, and no outsiders would be affected who could be entitled to make any reclamations. It is to be hoped, therefore, that if any effort is made to bring about a conference the Government of this colony will not discourage it but do all in their power to forward it.

It will probably require a good many discussions to place the matter on a stable basis. We have to consider the effect on trade and revenue of each colony, and our relations to other colonies and the Empire as a whole. And we shall have to study how they as to tariffs and Customs will stand related to our separateness as political com-

ities. Perhaps the German Zollverein is model most *apropos* for our study. But sooner we begin to tackle the difficulties the question, the sooner we are likely find our way to the right conclusion. The admitted difficulties, therefore, form no justification for an indefinite postponement. Free trade between the colonies already exists as respects some articles, and across the Atlantic, from the United States, all

we, therefore, the opportunity of studying the benefits of freedom and the inconveniences of restriction, and we can form some judgment as to the effects of making the whole of Australasia one community so far as Customs are concerned. And no one familiar with the details of trade will deny that the restrictions established by the various Customs Houses are a great waste of

There are two modes in which international free trade could be carried out.

one is to apply on a larger scale the principles of the Border treaty—to estimate and commute the separate claims on Customs revenue according to population and to the rates of consumption. The other is to have a Customs Union—a consolidated Customs Establishment, for the whole of the colonies, and a redistribution of the proceeds. The latter is the more complete system,

is that which will ultimately be adopted. From the former might, perhaps, be more immediately practicable, as requiring less reliance upon the present state of things, and involving only one difficult question of detail, viz., the estimate of the claims of several colonies. It would also simply be asking on a large scale what is already done on a small one. At the same time this method has some special difficulties of its own.

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THE SYDNEY  
MONTHLY OVERLAND  
MAIL.

BY THE MAIL STEAMER GEELONG.

FROM THE 5TH NOVEMBER TO THE 13TH NOVEMBER.

At a meeting of the Executive Council held on the 30th Oct., Mr. Sutherland, the new Minister for Public Works, was appointed Commissioner for Railways, vice Mr. Byrne, resigned.

On the 30th of October the store of Messrs. Hedley and Pittman, in Cooma-street, Yass, was burnt to the ground.

On the 31st October, the Hon. Sir William Manning, Q.C., was sworn in as a member of the Executive Council. He will not be a member of the Cabinet.

On the evening of last Sunday week a fire occurred in a hut occupied by a man named Joseph Sanderson, at the North Rocks, near Parramatta, and after the fire had been extinguished the unfortunate man was found burnt to death in the ruins.

Mr. Robert Byers, a medical gentleman, long in very bad health, committed suicide (in a fit of insanity) last Sunday morning.

The wife of the Rev. John H. Garven, of Palmer's Island, Clarendon River, committed suicide by taking strychnine on Saturday last, whilst labouring under temporary insanity, occasioned through fretting at the loss of her son, who died some months ago.

Some superior photographic portraits of the Bishop of Lichfield were taken by Mr. W. Bradley, of Pitt-street, during the late visit of that distinguished prelate.

Another effort is being made to raise sufficient funds for a statue to the memory of Captain Cook.

A Chinese journal, the *Pao, or Courier*, is being circulated in these colonies.

The *Jacaranda mimosifolia* is now flowering in the Botanical gardens.

Monday last, the 9th instant, being the anniversary of the birthday of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, was observed as a public holiday. There were the usual excursions and picnics, &c. The weather was unpropitious.

A bomb of extraordinary size was accidentally found a few days since under the large fig-tree on the beach at Kuma. It has been inspected by a good many people; but, as occasionally happens in regard to such geological inquiries, no one seems to know what to make of it.

Amongst the late obituaries is that of Monsieur Boucher de Perthes, who presented a small but valuable collection of instruments found by him at Abbeville and elsewhere) to the Sydney University Museum, where they remain in a glass case in the Egyptian Room for the inspection of the curious, and for the enlightenment of the geological student.

Last Tuesday morning the detachment of the 50th Regiment and Royal Artillery at present stationed at Kuma, were assembled on parade, in the Domain, to witness the presentation of a good-conduct medal to James Mason, drill sergeant and musketry instructor to the 50th.

Mr. John Sutherland, the new Minister for Works, was, without opposition, re-elected member for Paddington, on Tuesday last.

Last Wednesday evening, at the monthly meeting of the Royal Society of New South Wales, Dr. Cox read an interesting and instructive paper on the distribution of the Australian Yellows.

The principal object of this paper was to point out the localities where many of the species of this genus might be found, and to show that more genera had been discovered on the Australian coast than had been recorded by Anger.

The annual meeting of the York-street Circuit in connection with the Wesleyan Methodist Church Extension and Extension Society, was held in the York-street Chapel, on the evening of the 11th instant.

From 13th NOVEMBER TO 20th NOVEMBER.

William Randall, on the 10th of November, was committed by the Magistrate to the County Gaol, on a charge of having, on the 6th of October, murdered his illegitimate child, Esther Randall.

At the Wellington Police Court, on the 9th instant, a servant was charged with having stolen a watch from the Quarter Sessions for "tin-killing," a newly-married couple.

At Irishtown, near Bathurst, on the 7th instant, two children, named Charles and Jane Wall, were killed by a steam engine, and a severely injured man was also killed.

On Saturday last a race took place in Port Jackson between the vessels belonging to the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron. The first prize was gained by the *Mistral*, the second by the *Virgil*, and the third by the *Perseus*.

The ministers of the Wesleyan Church, stationed in the various circuits within the city and suburbs, the illawarra, and Hawkesbury districts, assembled in their annual meeting, in York-street chapel, on Tuesday, 3rd instant, and closed on Friday evening, 5th, at a late hour. The Rev. H. H. Gaud, chairman of district, presided.

On the 14th instant the weather was so stormy that the You Yangs had to return to the port. At 2 a.m. on that day, the ship *Eden*, on the charge of Kuma, one of the women, named William M. Kay, was thrown against the railing on the starboard quarter, giving way, the poor fellow went overboard, and was never seen after. The wheel and anchor were torn away, and the vessel otherwise injured.

Telegrams reached Sydney last Monday morning with the information that the stores of Messrs. H. H. Gaud, at the wharf, were burnt to the ground. The loss has been very great.

On Sunday afternoon, Mr. James Hume, the architect, was found dead in his house, in Elizabeth-street. The deceased gentleman died from disease of the heart. His age was about 61 years.

In the district of Carcass, last Thursday week was the coldest day during the past winter. About midday it hailed and snowed for some time. The snow lay for some time upon the mountains.

The state of the country at Cooper's Creek is reported to be very bad. The missionaries at Killaipia say they have had no rain since February last.

Amongst the obituary notices which have recently appeared is one recording the death of a very old and much respected colonist, Mr. William John Dunmore, of Tivoli, Rose Bay, and of St. John's, New South Wales. His decease was gained by the venerable, at Cleveland, Moreton Bay, the residence of his son-in-law, the Hon. Louis Hope.

Edmund Smith, George Cartwright, and Peter Cunningham, were on Wednesday last, committed to the Governor's Court for manhandling. They were concerned in a disgraceful fight which terminated in the death of J. P. Fitzsimmons.

On the night of last Thursday week (according to the *Federal Times*) twenty families with their families camped in Deniliquin. They were on their way from South Australia, to settle in the fine wine-growing district near Albany.

On Wednesday last the children of the Destitute Children's Asylum, at Randwick, were taken for an excursion up the Western Line, and greatly enjoyed themselves.

The disastrous news of the barbarous outrages at Okara and Portbury Bay, in New Zealand, on the 7th and 9th of this month, reached this city via Melbourne, by telegraph message, on the 20th, and was received with feelings of universal indignation and horror.

During a late trip of the *Riverine* steamer from Corowa to Wahgonja, a deck hand named Maurice Cochran, by a courageous and gallant act of daring, saved the life of a man named "Peter," who had fallen overboard.

The annual meeting of the Tract Society was held in the Bible Hall, Pitt-street, last Monday afternoon, at 4 o'clock, the Hon. George Allen in the chair.

Mr. John Christie, J.P., of Narramine, near Dubbo, one of the wealthiest squatters on the river, was found drowned in the Macintyre about 100 yards from his house. He is supposed to have drowned himself in a fit of temporary insanity.

The Synod of Eastern Australia—not in conformity with the resolutions of the New South Wales Synod, at St. George's Church, Sydney, on Tuesday, 3rd instant, for the transaction of business. They sat five days, and adjourned till the 1st Wednesday in November, 1869. The Rev. William S. Donald is Moderator for this year.

Hundreds of strange, ravenous little slate-coloured larks, with white heads and tails, have made their appearance lately at Quirangany, where they have made havoc among the tame pigeons and chickens.

The Chinaman, Ah Sing, convicted at the last Bathurst Assizes of the murder of Mr. Lee, was executed on Tuesday last. He died professing himself to be a Roman Catholic.

The *Kamee* Post says that a marriage recently took place in that district between a widow and widower—having a family of nine, the other eight making a total of seventeen.

Mr. Allan Macpherson's resignation has been forwarded to the Speaker, and true there is a vacancy in the representation of Central Cumberland. A writ

for the election of a new member was issued on Tuesday last—to be returnable on the 31st proximo.

Mr. Justice Haygrave has refused to allow bail to the young men committed for the part they took in the recent disgraceful fight, resulting in the death of Fitzsimmons.

It is stated that at a meeting of the Executive Council held on Tuesday last, it was resolved that Mr. Berney, the present Collector of Customs, and Mr. Jones, who file the office vacated by Mr. Berney, should be called upon to show cause, if they had any, why they should not revert to their former positions to admit of the reinstatement of Mr. Duncan.

That portion of George-street, which adjoins the Cathedral, was widened the last few days, been considerably widened, a material improvement to the main thoroughfare of that part of the city.

A young child was, on the 18th instant, lost in the bush at Telbragar, near Denison Town, and was not recovered until after about 30 hours search. When the little fellow was asked where he had slept on the night he was out, he answered—"with the stars."

A little boy (says the *Murrumbidgee* correspondent of the *Maitland Mercury*), named Lyons, thirteen years of age, in the employment of Mr. James Parrell, of Wallabadah, was stung, a few days since, by an adder, and is since dead.

FROM 27th NOVEMBER TO 3RD DECEMBER.

On Friday, the 27th ultimo, Mr. Charles Moore, the Director of the Botanical Gardens, finished an interesting and instructive series of lectures on Botany. The last lecture was upon Fossil Botany.

It is stated that on one of the islands of the Northern Coast, "Mulgrave Island," there is a "markable large white fellow's child." It is probably only a half cast.

The sentence of death recently passed at Goulburn on Louis Douchet, for the murder of Crofty, the mailman, has been commuted to imprisonment with hard labour for fifteen years, the first three years in irons.

Mr. S. A. Joseph, absent from the colony, has resigned his seat in the Legislative Assembly.

During the last fortnight a branch of industry has been commenced in the colony, Mr. Zollner having erected and set to work his newly imported machinery for the construction of kerosene tins.

This new line of manufacture is commenced opportunely, just as the Western Kerosene Company is about to commence operations at their works at Waterloo, and when the older company is enlarging the scale of its operations at Hartley.

An influential meeting on the question of water supply to the Globe was held at the University Hotel, on the 26th ultimo, Mr. Moran in the chair.

On the rolling stock on the railway is being carefully overhauled by order of the Minister for Works, with a view to greater security from accidents.

A meeting of the members of the various lodges of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity, was held on the 26th ultimo, at the hall in Sussex-street, for the purpose of making preliminary arrangements for the erection of a new hall for their society.

On the 27th ultimo a conference was held between the seven Anglican Bishops now in Sydney and the Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral. The meeting took place within the College. The Council pointed out the advantages offered to the sons of churchmen by that educational establishment in affiliation with the University, both as regards intellectual training and domestic supervision.

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For amongst our leading principles will be a sincere and earnest desire to unfetter as much as may be the trade and commerce of the colony. In attempting to carry out that policy, we will not only direct our attention to the requirements of the great cities, but we will bear in mind the terrible oversight which our predecessors in the Government made, when settling our trade relations with Victoria, in not stipulating for better conditions for the entrance of the products of our rich and fertile coast districts into that colony. We will maintain the principles of the present Land and Education Laws, and consent only to such alteration as may be found necessary, from time to time, to extend their usefulness, and to facilitate their faithful and efficient administration. Our general course of action will be to use the great powers which the Constitution clothes us, as responsible Ministers, in such a manner as we believe will best advance the intelligence and the industry of the people, and secure their peace, happiness, and prosperity. In our administrative capacity, we will act faithfully under the laws as we find them, and in any attempts of ours to alter those laws, or to enact new ones, our object will be thoroughly to maintain the principles of fair play for all classes.

The Hon. the Treasurer, in his address, also promised that the Government would pursue a liberal and progressive policy, and that any fiscal changes which might be made would be to give greater freedom to the trade and commerce of the colony. Such a statement is what the colony expected, and the performance of the promise would, no doubt, be demanded of any Government; for the Stamp Act is exceedingly irksome, and the old *calamitas* duties lead to much evasion and consequent demoralisation. The Hon. Minister for Works (Mr. Sutherland), who has the reputation of being a protectionist, told the electors that in undertaking the administration of Public Works, he hoped to be able to open a fair field for the encouragement of colonial industry by the use of articles produced or manufactured within the colony, far as they could be procured upon advantageous terms.

The inference, however, that colonial enterprise is shut out of the market is not in strict accordance with things as they exist. It is rather a curious fact that one of the new Ministers was opposed on the occasion of his re-election by an advocate of Protection, but who, not being taken at his own valuation, received an ignominious defeat, such as was warranted by his political antecedents. Another of the Ministers (the Hon. Secretary for Lands) was threatened with opposition. A gentleman went from Sydney to contest his election, but no one came forward on the hustings to nominate him. The members of the Ministry who appealed to their constituents have all been re-elected. It is not likely, however, that they will do much this session towards carrying out their policy, inasmuch as the business proper to the year is not yet begun, and the passing of the Estimates, together with other matters of pressing importance, will claim their earliest attention.

It is very probable, indeed, that this business will be seriously delayed by the discussion of matters arising out of the circumstances which led to the recent political changes. The present Government have determined to undo that which the previous Government did, by reinstating the Collector of Customs (whose dismissal, it will be remembered, was one of the primary causes of the disruption of the late Ministry), and causing the officers of the department who were promoted to revert to their former positions. A Cabinet minute to this effect was recorded a few weeks ago, and confirmed on Wednesday last. While the late dismissal of Mr. Duncan is largely censured, the proposal of the present Government does not meet with much approbation, save among those who are in favour of the American system by which the Civil service of the great Republic is periodically disorganised.

The Parliament will meet on Tuesday next, when this matter will, no doubt, claim attention, as well as that relating to the dismissal of the late Collector of Customs, which has not yet been discussed in the House, and in regard to which the late Colonial Treasurer has not been heard.

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The result of the Municipal elections was declared at the Town Hall on Wednesday last. The Aldermen returned are Messrs. Maximilian, Reany, Chapman, Wood, and the Mayor, Mr. Reany.

For amongst our leading principles will be a sincere and earnest desire to unfetter as much as may be the trade and commerce of the colony. In attempting to carry out that policy, we will not only direct our attention to the requirements of the great cities, but we will bear in mind the terrible oversight which our predecessors in the Government made, when settling our trade relations with Victoria, in not stipulating for better conditions for the entrance of the products of our rich and fertile coast districts into that colony. We will maintain the principles of the present Land and Education Laws, and consent only to such alteration as may be found necessary, from time to time, to extend their usefulness, and to facilitate their faithful and efficient administration. Our general course of action will be to use the great powers which the Constitution clothes us, as responsible Ministers, in such a manner as we believe will best advance the intelligence and the industry of the people, and secure their peace, happiness, and prosperity. In our administrative capacity, we will act faithfully under the laws as we find them, and in any attempts of ours to alter those laws, or to enact new ones, our object will be thoroughly to maintain the principles of fair play for all classes.

The Hon. the Treasurer, in his address, also promised that the Government would pursue a liberal and progressive policy, and that any fiscal changes which might be made would be to give greater freedom to the trade and commerce of the colony. Such a statement is what the colony expected, and the performance of the promise would, no doubt, be demanded of any Government; for the Stamp Act is exceedingly irksome, and the old *calamitas* duties lead to much evasion and consequent demoralisation. The Hon. Minister for Works (Mr. Sutherland), who has the reputation of being a protectionist, told the electors that in undertaking the administration of Public Works, he hoped to be able to open a fair field for the encouragement of colonial industry by the use of articles produced or manufactured within the colony, far as they could be procured upon advantageous terms.

The inference, however, that colonial enterprise is shut out of the market is not in strict accordance with things as they exist. It is rather a curious fact that one of the new Ministers was opposed on the occasion of his re-election by an advocate of Protection, but who, not being taken at his own valuation, received an ignominious defeat, such as was warranted by his political antecedents. Another of the Ministers (the Hon. Secretary for Lands) was threatened with opposition. A gentleman went from Sydney to contest his election, but no one came forward on the hustings to nominate him. The members of the Ministry who appealed to their constituents have all been re-elected. It is not likely, however, that they will do much this session towards carrying out their policy, inasmuch as the business proper to the year is not yet begun, and the passing of the Estimates, together with other matters of pressing importance, will claim their earliest attention.

It is very probable, indeed, that this business will be seriously delayed by the discussion of matters arising out of the circumstances which led to the recent political changes. The present Government have determined to undo that which the previous Government did, by reinstating the Collector of Customs (whose dismissal, it will be remembered, was one of the primary causes of the disruption of the late Ministry), and causing the officers of the department who were promoted to revert to their former positions. A Cabinet minute to this effect was recorded a few weeks ago, and confirmed on Wednesday last. While the late dismissal of Mr. Duncan is largely censured, the proposal of the present Government does not meet with much approbation, save among those who are in favour of the American system by which the Civil service of the great Republic is periodically disorganised.

The Parliament will meet on Tuesday next, when this matter will, no doubt, claim attention, as well as that relating to the dismissal of the late Collector of Customs, which has not yet been discussed in the House, and in regard to which the late Colonial Treasurer has not been heard.

The resignation of Mr. Macpherson, formerly member of the Central Cumberland, has been forwarded to the Speaker, and true there is a vacancy in the representation of Central Cumberland. A writ

for the election of a new member was issued on Tuesday last—to be returnable on the 31st proximo.

Mr. Justice Haygrave has refused to allow bail to the young men committed for the part they took in the recent disgraceful fight, resulting in the death of Fitzsimmons.

It is stated that at a meeting of the Executive Council held on Tuesday last, it was resolved that Mr. Berney, the present Collector of Customs, and Mr. Jones, who file the office vacated by Mr. Berney, should be called upon to show cause, if they had any, why they should not revert to their former positions to admit of the reinstatement of Mr. Duncan.

That portion of George-street, which adjoins the Cathedral, was widened the last few days, been considerably widened, a material improvement to the main thoroughfare of that part of the city.

A young child was, on the 18th instant, lost in the bush at Telbragar, near Denison Town, and was not recovered until after about 30 hours search. When the little fellow was asked where he had slept on the night he was out, he answered—"with the stars."

A little boy (says the *Murrumbidgee* correspondent of the *Maitland Mercury*), named Lyons, thirteen years of age, in the employment of Mr. James Parrell, of Wallabadah, was stung, a few days since, by an adder, and is since dead.

FROM 27th NOVEMBER TO 3RD DECEMBER.

On Friday, the 27th ultimo, Mr. Charles Moore, the Director of the Botanical Gardens, finished an interesting and instructive series of lectures on Botany. The last lecture was upon Fossil Botany.

It is stated that on one of the islands of the Northern Coast, "Mulgrave Island," there is a "markable large white fellow's child." It is probably only a half cast.

The sentence of death







**THE PANAMA MAIL SERVICE.**

A MEETING of shareholders in the Panama, New Zealand, and Australian Royal Mail Company, was called specially for explaining to them the necessity that had arisen for prompt and decisive action. It appears, as frequently happens in such cases, that some small creditors were pressing the company, while the larger creditors were tolerant, and that the Directors were forced under the circumstances to recommend the winding-up of the company. After an explanation of the state of affairs, and a discussion thereupon, an adjournment for a fortnight was agreed to in order to enable a committee of shareholders to confer with the Directors. They have no account presented of the adjourned meeting, but we find by notice that the petition for the winding-up of the company was to be heard before Vice-Chancellor MALINS, on the first petition day in November. A notice in our latest special telegram from England says that the service is to be continued under new directors but we hardly know in what sense to interpret that announcement, for, from the state of the accounts, we should fear that a large proportion of the capital was absolutely lost, and that any continuation of the service would result in still further loss, unless the traffic speedily increased, or the British Government adopted and patronised the service as one of the Imperial Mail routes. A mere change of directors would have no beneficial result, because the cause of failure has not lain with the Board.

We are sorry to think that this is not the first company that has lost money in working out the Australian Mail service. The Australian Royal Mail Company, that first sent steamboats from England by way of the Cape, lost heavily. The General Screw Steam Shipping Company, that succeeded to the same service, also made great losses and was forced to abandon their boats. The European and Australian Mail Company, that for a time had the overland contract, lost the whole of its limited capital, and incurred debts besides; and the Royal West Indian Mail Company, that for a time took over its contract and its vessels, was also a loser during the time that it tried to retrieve the business. And now the Panama Company is added to the list of failures and losses. The P. and O. Co. is the only one that has made a profit in our service.

If the financial failure of the Panama line had been in any respect due to bad ships, incompetent commanders, stingy management, or general unpunctuality, we should have had to say that the failure was deserved. But the very contrary has been the case, and this aggravates the hardship. No finer mail-ships have ever entered our harbour, and they have performed the unprecedented feat of crossing the Pacific with speed and regularity. Most of the slight delays that have occurred have been due to detentions on the other side of the Isthmus. The competition of this line has undoubtedly stirred up the directors of the rival company. The colonists have thereby received the benefit of greater punctuality, and have also had a practical demonstration of what might be done on the Suez route by vessels specially constructed and adapted for the purpose.

We have previously pointed out how the colony has gained, this year at least, fully the amount of the Panama subsidy in the diminished price of flour. No complaint is more frequently uttered in the colony than that which concerns the necessity of sending away money to buy bread. The amount sent away this year has been kept within bounds by the operations of the Trans-Pacific mail service. The regular monthly communication with California and Chili has equalised the markets on both sides of the Pacific. Our wants were supplied, and more than supplied, long before any scarcity could begin, and though this has been inconvenient to speculators, it has been a blessing to all who eat bread, that is to the whole body of taxpayers. Looked at in this light the subsidy is well repaid. And in this advantage all the colonies have participated—both those that have contributed and those that have not contributed to the subsidy, except perhaps South Australia, which, as the great wheat exporting colony, has had the price of its staple article kept down.

The immediate cause of the great reduction in the receipts of the Panama Company is undoubtedly traceable to alarm at the outbreak of yellow fever in the West Indies, and the bad management of the West India Mail Company in exposing the passengers unnecessarily to the risk of contagion. In fact, that company may be almost said to have virtually killed the Panama Company, and its conduct has shown a want of foresight and liberality. The new line was a branch established without expense to itself, and the least, therefore, that should have been done was to co-operate to the fullest extent. Steamers ought to have been put on at once to run through from Southampton to Colon. Instead of that the Directors contended it could not be done and compelled the passengers to undergo transshipment and delay at port-hole St. Thomas. When it was to save the Directors found out that it was quite possible to run a steamer through, and to choose a better calling place than St. Thomas, and the trip now is as free from objection as it can be. But the mischief was done. It may take some time to restore confidence, and meanwhile loss will continue to accrue. Whether it will be possible to keep open the route under any more economical arrangements, and wait the return of better times, remains to be seen. It would be a matter of congratulation if the Company should have an opportunity of retaining its position and ultimately retrieving its losses. There can be no doubt that the route will be a paying one some day, and that if the pioneers do not reap profits their successors will. It has been hinted that if English capitalists drop the enterprise, American capitalists are prepared to take up, and that the American Government will subsidise it, perhaps shifting the American terminus from Panama to San Francisco.

Since the above was written, the two directors at present in the colony have announced the cessation of the service, and have advertised the return to Europe of the *Ma'taus*, one of the vessels of the fleet. The others will probably follow in succession. Without the steamers the service of course







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